



Image
PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 05905.0157

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Tohru MITA et al.) Group Art Unit: 2837
Application No.: 10/050,548) Examiner: Marlon T. Fletcher
Filed: January 18, 2002)
For: AUDIO SIGNAL OUTPUTTING)
METHOD AND BGM)
GENERATION METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449 Form. To the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 in the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Additionally, a Search Report in English from the European Patent Office issued in the counterpart application citing the listed documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that the documents were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO 1449 Form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 11, 2004

By: Anthony Khaly Reg. No. 53,232
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	05905.0157	Appln. No.	10/050,548
Applicant	Tohru MITA et al.		
Filing Date	January 18, 2002	Group:	2837



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	EP 0 823 270 A2	02/11/1998	EPO			
	EP 0 729 131 A2	08/28/1996	EPO			
	EP 1 041 536 A1	11/19/1998	EPO			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner:	Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce